



## News Release

For Immediate Release

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### **Southwest Indiana to receive \$1.2 million aimed at creating new jobs in shortage occupations**

PRINCETON, Ind. (June 14, 2006) – Southwest Indiana will be awarded a grant from the state for \$1,215,829 to help create new jobs in the region’s health care and manufacturing industries, Ron Stiver, commissioner of the Indiana Department of Workforce Development announced today.

The grant is part of the Daniels administration’s Strategic Skills Initiative, a workforce development program introduced last year.

“On behalf of Governor Mitch Daniels, we are excited to award this grant to help regional leaders launch these four important projects to address occupational shortages in the health care industry and manufacturing sectors,” Stiver said. “This grant will help prepare workers for areas where there are currently shortages, and importantly, prepare workers for good paying jobs.”

The largest portion of the grant is aimed at alleviating projected shortages in maintenance and repair workers, industrial machine mechanics, and machinery maintenance workers. Through a new Industrial Maintenance Development Program, regional officials will step up marketing, career awareness, career path and education mapping to better develop the skills of workers in these shortage occupation areas. A pilot online training program will also be established.

In addition, three portions of the grant are aimed at increasing the capacity of the region’s nursing preparation programs. Regional officials have forecast a shortage of both registered nurses and licensed practical nurses and have identified insufficient funding, training and academic preparation as root causes for the shortages. The sub-grants:

- *Increase the capacity of Ivy Tech’s nursing preparation program.* Ivy Tech Community College in Evansville will add one full-time nursing faculty member and increase the number of clinical practice sites. The additional faculty member and clinical practice sites will result in training for 130 more health care workers and eight additional nursing graduates per year. Long term, 70 graduates are expected to be placed in nursing throughout the region.

- *Increase the capacity of the University of Southern Indiana's nursing preparation program and acquire new simulation equipment for training nurses.* The University of Southern Indiana will add three nursing faculty members, increase their clinical practice sites to increase the number of nursing students in the program. In addition, new simulation equipment will be obtained to provide faculty and students with enhanced training opportunities. The grant is projected to provide an additional 100 baccalaureate graduates by the year 2012.
- *Increase the capacity of Vincennes University's nursing preparation program, and establish a simulation center and Mobile MEDIC.* Vincennes University will hire one additional faculty member and establish a clinical simulation center to provide additional training opportunities for its students. In addition, Vincennes will create a mobile educational facility, known as a Mobile MEDIC to also increase the capacity of the program and provide better training opportunities. By boosting capacity, 20 additional students will be accepted into the program, and a projected 12 to 15 additional associate's degrees are expected to be awarded.

Stiver praised the collaborative nature of the projects, noting that representatives from the public and private sector, labor and industry, higher education, and workforce and economic development officials all worked together to develop this proposal.

The state's Strategic Skills Initiative seeks to identify critical occupational and skill shortages and their causes throughout the state, and then fund grants to local consortia to develop solutions that address the shortages. Last year, a grant of \$203,383 was awarded to the region for research and to identify the occupations, industries and skills projected to be in short supply. Today's grant provides the region with funds to build on that research through specific projects which address those shortages.

The grant has been awarded to the new regional workforce board on behalf of a consortium of workforce and economic development officials from the state's economic growth Region 11. The region consists of Knox, Gibson, Posey, Pike, Vanderburgh, Warrick, Dubois, Spencer, and Perry counties.

The Department of Workforce Development is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies to create new jobs and improve employee skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, partners with Indiana's 26 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures and operates a statewide job placement service.

# Indiana Department of Workforce Development

## Strategic Skills Initiative

### Economic Growth Region 11



Mitch Daniels, Governor  
Ron Stiver, Commissioner  
June 2006

#### About SSI

Governor Daniels' \$23 million Strategic Skills (SSI) Initiative aims to identify and alleviate job and skill shortages. The program will be carried out in Indiana's 11 economic regions through an ongoing process of identifying future shortages, determining the cause of those shortages, and developing solutions. Ultimately SSI will create jobs and increase personal income for Hoosiers.

#### About Region 11

- Population (July 2005)  
**421,359**
- Labor Force (March 2006)  
**222,580**
- Unemployment (March 2006)  
**4.7%**
- Per Capita Income  
**\$31,111 in 2004**

-Source: [www.hoosierdata.in.gov](http://www.hoosierdata.in.gov)

#### Counties in Region

- Knox
- Gibson
- Posey
- Pike
- Vanderburgh
- Warrick
- Dubois
- Spencer
- Perry



INDIANA  
**WORKFORCE**  
DEVELOPMENT

#### Economic Growth Region 11

**Economic Growth Region 11** is comprised of nine counties. The SSI research & identification allocation was \$203,383. The solutions allocation awarded in June 2006 for Region 11 is \$1,215,829. Methods to identify shortages, root causes, and determine solutions were: focus groups; secondary/primary research & data; secondary databases and interviews.

#### Key Occupational Shortages

#### Projection 2005-2007

Maintenance and Repair Workers	94
Registered Nurses	39
Licensed Practical Nurses	37
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	10
Maintenance Workers, Machinery	4

#### Emerging Industries / Occupations

Medical imaging technicians, cytogenetic technicians, pharmacy technicians, respiratory therapists

#### Root Causes

- Talent and Pipeline Issues**
  - a general lack of career awareness exists as well as inadequate employer outreach causing a lack of skill awareness and training
- Education and Training Capacity**
  - Insufficient funding, training and academic preparation
- Employer Recruitment and Retention Practices**
  - Undesirable working conditions, geographic area
- Wage Rates and Benefits**
  - Low wages in comparison to other industries especially healthcare
- Other**
  - People lack confidence in industries
  - Stress and burnout
  - Demographic shifts

Identified Solutions



## Identified Solutions

1.	Solution: <i>Industrial Maintenance Worker Training</i>	Dollars Allotted: <i>\$529,750</i>
	Solution Description: Region 11 will increase awareness of industrial maintenance occupations through marketing of training opportunities, career path and educational mapping, and an online pilot program for training. The Industrial Maintenance Development Program will develop skills of workers including employability, manufacturing workplace and industrial maintenance.	Outcomes Proposed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 200-215 completing solution</li> <li>• 45-50 receiving certification</li> <li>• 30 pursuing postsecondary education</li> <li>• 40 workers placed in shortage occupations</li> </ul>
2.	Solution: <i>Simulation Center and Mobile MEDIC</i>	Dollars Allotted: <i>\$245,792</i>
	Vincennes University will hire one additional full time faculty member and will utilize an innovative clinical simulation center. A mobile educational facility (Mobile MEDIC) will provide an enhanced learning experience, increased enrollment capacity and increase the number of graduates.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20 additional students accepted to Vincennes University program</li> <li>• 12-15 additional Associate Degree Nurses</li> <li>• 10 LPN's</li> </ul>
3.	Solution: <i>Enhanced Clinical Learning and Simulation</i>	Dollars Allotted: <i>\$324,555</i>
	Solution Description: The University of Southern Indiana nursing program plans to add three nursing faculty members, increase clinical practice sites, and admit additional students. In addition, simulation equipment will provide faculty and students with an effective alternative to clinical assignments. This will result in a more effective use of available clinical learning sites and enhanced clinical experience.	Outcomes Proposed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 22 more Hoosiers trained annually</li> <li>• 20 Baccalaureate graduates annually</li> <li>• 20 new nurses annually into shortage occupations</li> <li>• 100 Baccalaureate Degree nurses by 2012</li> </ul>
4.	Solution: <i>Nursing Faculty</i>	Dollars Allotted: <i>\$115,800</i>
	Solution Description: The Ivy Tech Community College Evansville nursing program will add one full-time nursing faculty member and increase the number of clinical practice sites. The additional faculty member and sites will increase the number of students admitted to nursing programs as well as graduates.	Outcomes Proposed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 130 Hoosiers trained per year</li> <li>• 8 additional graduates per year</li> <li>• 70 total graduates placed in shortage occupations per year</li> </ul>

*Solution Totals*

\$1,215,829

372+ Hoosiers trained

115+ certifications or degrees

110+ placed in shortage occupations